

Message Text

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16

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-15 SY-05 FBIE-00 AID-05 JUSE-00 OMB-01 /095 W

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R 291538Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2365

INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMCONSUL DURBAN

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

US MISSION USUN NEW YORK 1015

UNCLAS PRETORIA 2837

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, MILI, RH. US

SUBJ: RHODESIA: AMERICAN MAY FORM "SECURITY FORCE"

1. SALISBURY SUNDAY MAIL OF JULY 27 CARRIES SHORT INTERVIEW WITH AMCIT THOMAS BLEMING, WHO STATES HE IS INVESTIGATING POSSIBILITY OF FORMING "PRIVATE SECURITY FORCE TO ACT AS A PROTECTIVE UNIT ON FARMS IN THE OPERATIONAL AREA." BLEMING REPORTEDLY ARRIVED IN RHODESIA IN JUNE TO ASSESS SITUATION ON BEHALF OF ASSOCIATION CALLING ITSELF MILITARY ADVICE COMMAND INTERNATIONAL (MACI), WITH HEADQUARTERS IN ABINGDON, PENNSYLVANIA.

2. BLEMING, WHO CLAIMS TO BE VIETNAM VETERAN AND SILVER STAR HOLDER, SAID MACI ADVERTISED IN US FOR MEN WILLING TO GO TO TROUBLE SPOTS WHERE COMMUNISM BEING FOUGHT. HE SAID 300 MEN SELECTED FROM "THOUSANDS OF REPLIES", ARE "READY TO MOVE AT A MOMENT'S NOTICE". IN INTERVIEW BLEMING DENIED FORMING MERCENARY ARMY
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AND SAID FORCE NOT AGGRESSIVE BUT PROTECTIVE.

3. BLEMING TOLD MAIL REPORTER THAT MOST OF HIS 300
MEN WOULD HAVE JOINED RHODESIAN ARMY EXCEPT FOR FACT
IT WOULD MEAN LOSING US CITIZENSHIP AND RAISED POSSIBILITY
OF IMPRISONMENT. FOR THESE REASONS, HE SAID, "THE ALTER-
NATIVE IS TO FORM THE FORCE I HAVE IN MIND."
BOWDLER

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NNN

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